PATENTS

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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Christophe BERTEZ et al.

Serial No. 09/755,053

GROUP 1725

Filed January 8, 2001

Examiner Jonathan J. Johnson

METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR THE LASER CUTTING OF STAINLESS STEEL, COATED STEEL, ALUMINUM OR ALUMINUM ALLOYS WITH A BIFOCAL OPTICAL COMPONENT

AMENDMENT

RECEIVED

APR 0 5 2002

TC 1700

Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Responsive to the Official Action of January 3, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

## IN THE CLAIMS:

## Amend claim 2 as follows:

--2. (amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the multifocus optical means is chosen from lenses, mirrors and combinations thereof.--

Amend claim 3 as follows:

--3. (twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the assest gas is an oxygen/nitrogen mixture containing at least 90% ritrogen.--

Amend claim 4 as follows:

--4. (twice amended) The method as claimed in claim 1,

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